

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 2578

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing the national free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch program to a greater number of public school students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 12.039 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.039. SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM. (a) The department shall develop a formula to be used in determining the percentage of a school district's students that would be required to be eligible for the national free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch program established under 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq., before the district could provide under the program, without additional cost to the district, free breakfast and lunch to all students enrolled at each campus in the district, regardless of family income.

(b) Using the formula developed under Subsection (a), the department shall:

(1) identify each school district that could provide free meals to all students without additional cost but has not chosen to act in that manner; and

(2) encourage each district identified under Subdivision (1) to provide free meals to all students.

(c) The department, the Texas Education Agency, and the Health and Human Services Commission shall ensure that applicable

1 information maintained by each entity is used on at least a monthly
2 basis to identify children who are categorically eligible for free
3 meals under the national free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch
4 program established under 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq.

5 SECTION 2. Section 12.039(c), Agriculture Code, as added by
6 this Act, applies beginning with the 2005-2006 school year.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.